Benefits of Being in the City

city of greenville

The City of Greenville is recognized as one of the southeast's most progressive local governments and has amassed a notable record of success. The City is characterized by active involvement in support of economic development, provision of high quality services, fiscal conservatism and a pro-business climate. Below is an overview of some of the benefits of being in the city of Greenville:

Fire Protection

The City's Fire Department provides fire, rescue, medical first-responder and hazardous materials response services and conducts fire-code inspections, plan reviews and permit inspections. Service highlights include:

- **Direct fire alarm tie-in to the Fire Department** (average emergency response time is about 3 minutes).
- **2 ISO class rating.**
- **Full range of inspection services.**
- **Hazmat Team** provides 24-hour response service to accidental and intentional releases of hazardous materials.
- **Inspection of newly-renovated buildings** in a time-sensitive manner.
- **Fully-trained codes department** to assist with compliance with OSHA standards.

Police Protection

The City's Police Department is divided into three divisions: Administration, Operations and Investigations & Support Services, and the streets of Greenville are patrolled 24 hours a day utilizing a patrol schedule that divides the city into two sections for enhanced response. Service highlights include:

- **6.43 police officers per square mile** (versus .04 deputies per square mile in the unincorporated areas of Greenville County).
- **Quicker emergency response time** (average of 6 minutes for City versus 15 minutes in the unincorporated areas of Greenville County).
- **Full range of crime prevention services** including:

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- **Full range of crime prevention services** including:

> Direct Call Communicator
> Police Substations
> Victim Assistance Program
> Neighborhood & Business Crime Reports
> Crime Prevention Surveys for Residences and Businesses
> Computerized Elder Care

Infrastructure Assistance

The City's Public Works Department helps guide development of the city by providing technical support and management of infrastructure improvements for residential and commercial developments. Examples of assistance include:

- **Assist developers**, as funds allow, with the construction costs of sewer lines, roads, landscaping and other improvements on public property. Level of assistance is determined on a project-by-project basis.
- **New and rehabilitated neighborhood sidewalks**, as determined by City funding.
- **Street lighting**, along with pedestrian lights in some designated areas.

Zoning

The City's Planning & Development Division is responsible for comprehensive urban planning and implementation of the City's land use ordinances. Streamlining the development process and providing outreach to developers, business owners and residents are examples of ways the City works to ensure quality growth and development.

- **City zoning regulations** are more flexible than those of the County.

Water Rates

Water rates from the Greenville Water System are approximately 1/3 lower for properties located within the city limits of Greenville. For example, an annual water bill of $200 for a property located outside the city limits would cost $134 if the property were located within the city limits, resulting in a savings of $66.

Alcohol Sales

The City of Greenville has passed a referendum allowing for the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday.

Other Business Advantages

- Lower insurance rates with City Police and Fire.
- Hospitality Tax revenues used for tourism-related projects.
- Business License Taxes are less than 1% of a business' gross income and in many cases are less than **one tenth of 1%** of gross income.
- Your business license can be deducted from your income tax. All excise taxes (including business licenses) that are ordinary and necessary expenses to carrying on your trade or business can be deducted as a business expense (IRS Publication 535 (2007) Business Expenses).